

### ***Welcome to Clayton West***

Clayton West completely dominated the Central League before they joined the Drakes League in 2000. They had just completed a hat trick of championships, two of which were also double years. Amongst these cup victories was an historic semi-final they fought out against us at Emley that resulted in a tie.

With a wealth of local talent they were expected to do well in their new surroundings, and so they did! They won promotion in 2002 but found the going tough in the Premier League last term, their centenary year, when they finished in tenth position. Their cause wasn't helped when their overseas player returned home early to South Africa due to family reasons. Even so he was at the Back Lane club long enough for him to top the league averages with 43 wickets at 13.51.

Stuart Rank who has been a run machine over the years topped the batting with 490 runs at an average of 32.67 but surprisingly he didn't score a century. He did however pick up 25 victims behind the stumps. M. Firth outscored him with 534 runs at 29.67 with J. Byrne not far behind with 495 at 27.75.

Their brief period in the Drakes League has seen them rewrite the record books when they scored 411 for 7 against Dalton on September 8<sup>th</sup> 2001 when Stuart Rank made 201. It was the highest ever league total which will take some beating.

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